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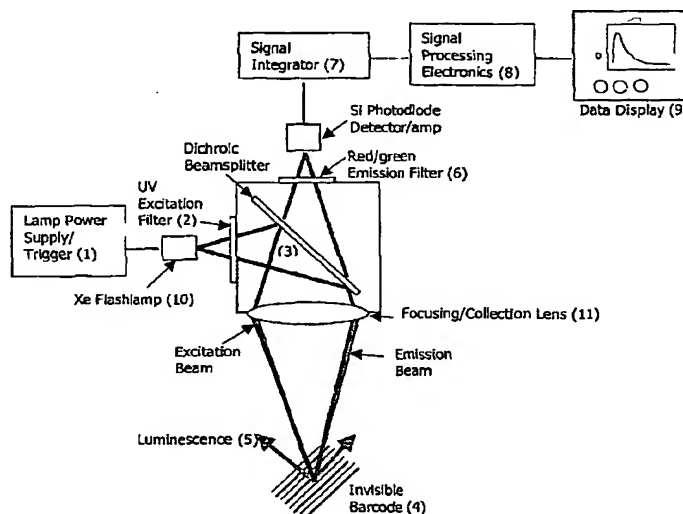
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR PRODUCT AND DOCUMENT AUTHENTICATION



(57) **Abstract:** The present invention relates to both a system and method for product and document authentication. The system used herein comprises one or more inks, at least one of which is either invisible to the naked eye or is fluorescent or luminescent, an optical (2, 3, 8) scanning component capable of detecting the signals emitted by all of said inks, and an information technology component for analyzing said signals. Given the large number of combinations of dyes, sizes and shapes of the markings made with said dyes, the ability to change the type, size and shape for the marking (5) for a given product, and the ability to keep track of the dyes and markings used for a given product, the system allows a nearly foolproof system for product authentication. The method involves the above system, or other combinations of inks, for authenticating a given product.

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